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Market News

Issued LIVESTOCK DIVISION Weekly

MARKET REVIEWS AND STATISTICS

Vol. 24, No. 13 March 27, 1956

Week ended March 24


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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
LIVESTOCK DIVISION
Washington 25, D. C.

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## MIDWEST LIVESTOCK MARKET REVIEW

Cattle receipts were smaller than a week earlier but demand from order buyers for fed offerings was also reduced. This was due partly to the heavy snowfall in the East at the week's opening and also to approaching religious holidays during which slaughtering will be suspended. These factors influenced price declines on Good and Choice steers at several markets, while at others the trend was slightly stronger. Hog marketings were smallest of the year and prices advanced for the fourth straight week. Upturns were sharpest for any week since late January, bulk of the butchers selling $1.00 to $1.50 higher. Supplies of slaughter lambs increased and late sales were steady to $1.00 lower.

### SLAUGHTER CATTLE AND CALVES

Mixed price trends characterized trading in slaughter cattle for the week. At several major centers prices of steers and heifers strenghtened after opening lower and finished on a somewhat higher basis. However, at some other markets, notably Chicago, Kansas City, and Omaha, prices of these classes showed uneven declines, steers other than Prime selling 50¢ to $1.00 lower at Omaha. Cows and bulls held steady or advanced moderately at most points. Vealer prices declined $1.00-3.00 at S. St. Paul, and were $1.00 lower at St. Louis National Stock Yards.

Factors tending to influence price trends adversely included forthcoming non-slaughtering Jewish holidays, together with approaching Holy Week, and unsettled conditions in the dressed trade. Eastern outlets were disturbed because of these factors, and were affected, too, by severe snow storms which disrupted transportation facilities and hampered trading. Tending to counteract these weakening influences to some extent was a smaller run of cattle at the 12 markets.

At Chicago, where steers finished weak to 50¢ lower, and heifers 25-75¢ lower, daily clearances were more or less incomplete, and a dozen loads of Choice steers over 1200# still had not cleared as the week drew to a close. Choice steers were most numerous there, the proportion of Prime falling below ten percent for the first time since last June. Receipts at Chicago included many loads of steers over 1350#, but the average weight of 1148# was somewhat below that of the week before when it was 1156#, or 76# heavier than in the corresponding week of 1955.

Prime steers at Chicago brought $20.50-25.50 according to weight; bulk $22.50-24.50. A few loads Prime 1475-1575# brought $20.50-22.00; loads of high-Choice and mixed Choice and Prime steers under 1350# $21.00-22.50; several loads mostly Prime 1075-1100# up to $23.00. High-Choice 1400-1615# steers brought $19.00-20.50; some high-Choice 1730# $19.00. Choice steers bulked for the week from $18.00-21.00; Good $16.50-18.00; mixed Commercial and Good $15.25-16.50; Utility and Commercial $13.00-15.50, including some Commercial 1370# Holsteins at $14.50, and 1075# Utility Holsteins $13.00. Good and Choice steers at midwest terminals other than Chicago bulked at $16.00-19.50; a moderate showing of Choice and Prime $20.00-22.50; 50 head of average to high-Prime 1261# $23.75 at Indianapolis, a load of Prime 1183# reaching $24.00 at Omaha.

### STOCKER AND FEEDER CATTLE AND CALVES

Marketings of stocker and feeder cattle and calves, although of seasonally moderate proportions, were somewhat larger than either the previous week or a year ago. Shipments of steers to the country from the 10 markets during the week totaled 12,941, compared with 15,707 the previous week and 16,903 a year ago. Shipments of steers from Kansas City totaled 4,565 and in addition, dealers at that market still had a moderate number on hand going into the weekend. Quality was at a fairly high level, Good to Choice offerings making up a large percent of the overall supplies. Yearling stock steers averaging from 500-700# predominated. Although not many straight feeder steers 800# up were on offer, receipts, particularly at Kansas City, included a moderate number of wellbred, partly fattened two-way offerings. Feeder

buyers at that market showed considerably more inclination than in recent weeks to compete with slaughterers on such offerings and a moderate number of steers already well up in the Good grade from a beef standpoint went out for further feeding at prices materially above those prevailing on the same grades going for immediate slaughter. This increased interest in cattle suitable for a short feeding term indicated renewed optimism in regard to fat cattle prices during the next several months as the current price relationship between fats and feeders could scarcely be considered favorable to profitable feeding of cattle. For example, the week's average cost of $17.72 for all steers 500# up shipped to the country from Kansas City was $3.91 under a year ago while the week's average price of $17.30 for all slaughter steers sold on that market was $6.22 under a year ago. Trading for the rank and file of stockers and feeders around the market circuit was only moderately active and somewhat uneven but for the most part prices varied but little from a steady basis. In some areas the approaching new grass season was a factor tending to stimulate demand for stockers, but in others sub-normal stock water conditions tended to slow demand. Even where water and grass conditions were favorable stocker buyers at current price levels often were inclined to proceed with considerable caution and consequently, offerings under 500# still commanded a premium over the same grades of 550-600# steers, and these in turn sold at materially higher prices than did the 650-750# lots.

## HOGS

Receipts of hogs again decreased at midwest market centers and the combined movement at the 12 terminal markets and the Interior area was the smallest since late last September. Shipping orders were only moderate to rather small, but even so, supplies were seldom adequate to meet the demand by packing plants. Price advances for the period were the greatest since late January. Compared with a week earlier, butchers closed 75¢ to $1.75 higher, mostly $1.00-1.50 up. Sows were 50¢ to $1.00 higher, instances as much as $1.75 up. Price levels on butchers at eastern Corn Belt markets were the highest since mid-winter, and prices at several points in the western Corn Belt were highest since last fall. However, butcher prices are still around $2.75-3.50 lower than the same time last year, while sows are about $2.50 below a year ago. Butchers continued to sell in a narrow price range. The increased proportion of No. 1 and 2 lots sold 25-75¢ or more above mixed lots of the same weights grading mostly No. 2 and 3. Sows made up from 4 to 12 percent of receipts.

Stocker and feeder pigs shared the price upturns on slaughter hogs. Good and Choice 130-150# feeders sold $1.00 higher at Sioux City, cashing from $12.00-12.50. At S. St. Paul, Good and Choice feeders were 50¢ higher at $11.00-12.50.

## SHEEP AND LAMBS

Receipts at the 12 markets were substantially larger than last week, with the increase mainly at southwest points where several thousand spring lambs were marketed for the Easter trade. Slaughter lamb trading was erratic and prices closed unevenly steady to $1.00 lower. Slaughter ewe prices ranged from 50¢ lower to $1.00 higher, while feeding and shearing lambs sold steady to $1.00 lower. Discounts on lambs over 110# ranged upwards to $2.00 per cwt. for 125-130# weights. Good to Prime wooled lambs 110# down bulked at $18.00-20.50, scattered loads $21.00-21.50. Lambs over 115# sold downward from $20.25, some Good 130# lambs as low as $15.00. Good to Prime spring lambs brought $20.00-23.00, mainly $22.00 down. Good to Prime shorn lambs carrying No. 3 to summer shorn pelts sold at $17.00-19.50, and a few mostly fall and summer shorn offerings reached $19.75-20.25. Cull to Choice slaughter ewes moved at $3.50-9.00. Feeding and shearing lambs grading Good and Choice sold mainly at $18.00-19.50. Short-term bred ewes brought $11.50 and $11.75 per head, while good-mouthed bred ewes realized $17.15 per head.

Continued on page 268.

## WEEKLY RECEIPTS OF SALABLE LIVESTOCK AT 12 PUBLIC MARKETS

| Market | Cattle | | Calves | | Hogs | | Sheep | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Mar. 24 1956 | Mar. 26 1955 | Mar. 24 1956 | Mar. 26 1955 | Mar. 24 1956 | Mar. 26 1955 | Mar. 24 1956 | Mar. 26 1955 |
| Chicago | 43,506 | 40,665 | 1,219 | 1,333 | 40,399 | 45,849 | 9,554 | 11,203 |
| Cincinnati | 4,279 | 3,396 | 1,218 | 1,119 | 17,447 | 10,975 | 536 | 201 |
| Denver | 11,768 | 15,302 | 521 | 1,043 | 3,030 | 2,811 | 24,007 | 33,621 |
| Fort Worth | 7,533 | 7,372 | 1,512 | 2,229 | 3,200 | 2,161 | 33,259 | 25,815 |
| Indianapolis | 8,529 | 8,399 | 1,196 | 1,107 | 60,001 | 45,573 | 926 | 1,507 |
| Kansas City | 20,972 | 18,438 | 1,231 | 1,851 | 12,713 | 7,476 | 8,847 | 7,343 |
| Oklahoma City | 12,120 | 8,667 | 1,030 | 1,009 | 4,899 | 3,378 | 4,570 | 2,047 |
| Omaha | 33,448 | 42,477 | 851 | 1,009 | 33,103 | 34,112 | 13,453 | 19,883 |
| St. Joseph | 13,754 | 14,965 | 904 | 807 | 26,056 | 19,610 | 3,744 | 4,649 |
| St. Louis NSY | 17,241 | 15,992 | 3,539 | 3,299 | 66,942 | 47,135 | 2,490 | 2,299 |
| Sioux City | 22,118 | 24,749 | 645 | 328 | 26,201 | 28,989 | 6,237 | 10,852 |
| S. St. Paul | 20,786 | 23,074 | 10,952 | 10,046 | 59,793 | 47,605 | 11,601 | 9,868 |
| Total | 216,054 | 223,496 | 24,818 | 25,180 | 353,784 | 295,674 | 119,224 | 129,288 |
| Mar. 17, 1956 | 226,841 | | 24,466 | | 362,840 | | 110,725 | |

## INTERIOR IOWA AND SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

| Week ended: | Hogs | Sheep |
|---|---|---|
| Mar. 24, 1956 | 338,000 | 23,600 |
| Mar. 17, 1956 | 369,000 | 27,500 |
| Mar. 26, 1955 | 286,500 | 33,500 |

## FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER

| | Week ended | | | Month | | Two months | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Mar. 22 1956 | Mar. 15 1956 | Mar. 24 1955 | Feb. 1956 | Feb. 1955 | Jan. - Feb. 1956 | Jan. - Feb. 1955 |
| Steers - 1001# up | 464 | 318 | 465 | 1,500 | 1,917 | 3,391 | 4,142 |
| 901-1000 | 1,565 | 1,295 | 1,766 | 5,513 | 8,202 | 11,608 | 16,813 |
| 801-900 | 2,773 | 2,541 | 2,448 | 10,199 | 10,804 | 26,382 | 26,171 |
| 701-800 | 3,508 | 2,905 | 2,765 | 11,081 | 10,966 | 28,349 | 28,492 |
| 501-700 | 10,631 | 8,648 | 9,459 | 32,465 | 26,110 | 67,233 | 70,928 |
| Total steers 10 mkts. | 18,941 | 15,707 | 16,903 | 60,758 | 57,999 | 136,963 | 146,546 |
| Av. wts. " " " | 700# | 701# | 704# | 710# | 738# | 717# | 721# |
| Av.cost* " " " | $16.98 | $16.88 | $20.80 | $16.54 | $19.71 | $16.59 | $19.76 |
| " " " Chicago | 17.55 | 17.68 | 20.01 | 16.86 | 20.24 | 16.81 | 20.02 |
| " " " Ks. City | 17.72 | 17.36 | 21.63 | 17.04 | 20.46 | 17.09 | 20.43 |
| " " " Omaha | 16.39 | 16.85 | 20.61 | 16.38 | 19.60 | 16.36 | 19.59 |
| " " " S. St. Paul | 15.93 | 15.31 | 19.53 | 15.03 | 18.10 | 15.05 | 17.59 |
| " " " Sioux City | 17.73 | 17.71 | 21.27 | 16.82 | 20.10 | 16.66 | 20.15 |
| " " " Denver | 14.89 | 15.00 | 21.45 | 16.11 | 20.12 | 17.53 | 22.09 |
| " " " Ft. Worth | 16.28 | 16.99 | 20.37 | 16.31 | 19.02 | 16.29 | 18.69 |
| " " " Okla. City | 16.38 | 16.16 | 20.74 | 16.40 | 19.12 | 16.33 | 18.46 |
| " " " S. St. Joseph | 17.28 | 16.60 | 20.43 | 16.41 | 19.24 | 16.38 | 19.41 |
| " " " Natl. Stk. Yds. | 15.96 | 16.25 | 19.11 | 16.20 | 18.81 | 16.14 | 18.61 |
| Total calves-10 mkts. | 4,869 | 4,245 | 6,452 | 18,931 | 15,937 | 53,071 | 65,126 |
| " cows. heifers, bulls- " " | 2,668 | 2,799 | 2,620 | 9,265 | 9,836 | 23,825 | 30,657 |

* Not adjusted for differences in grade of cattle sold at each market.

## BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

| Grade | Number of head | | | Percent of total by grades | | | Average weight (pounds) | | | Average price in dollars per 100 lb. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Week ended | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 22 1956 | Mar. 15 1956 | 24 1955 | 22 1956 | Mar. 15 1956 | 24 1955 | 22 1956 | Mar. 15 1956 | 24 1955 | 22 1956 | Mar. 15 1956 | 24 1955 |
| **CHICAGO** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prime | 1719 | 2917 | 258 | 6.3 | 9.9 | 1.1 | 1299 | 1324 | 1144 | 22.40 | 22.02 | 31.92 |
| Choice | 17431 | 16336 | 13037 | 63.9 | 55.7 | 54.3 | 1184 | 1193 | 1137 | 19.36 | 19.36 | 26.19 |
| Good | 6482 | 8177 | 8924 | 23.8 | 27.9 | 37.0 | 1064 | 1062 | 1025 | 17.35 | 17.34 | 22.64 |
| Com'l. | 1432 | 1379 | 1625 | 5.2 | 4.7 | 6.8 | 945 | 978 | 947 | 15.32 | 15.11 | 18.39 |
| Utility | 228 | 535 | 183 | .8 | 1.8 | .8 | 933 | 996 | 813 | 13.53 | 13.54 | 15.83 |
| All grades | 27292 | 29344 | 24027 | | | | 1148 | 1156 | 1080 | 18.92 | 18.88 | 24.48 |
| **OMAHA 1/** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prime | 74 | 184 | -- | .6 | 1.1 | -- | 1233 | 1260 | -- | 22.65 | 22.12 | -- |
| Choice | 8335 | 8407 | 7883 | 63.9 | 51.3 | 44.3 | 1144 | 1157 | 1138 | 18.37 | 19.04 | 25.36 |
| Good | 3552 | 6602 | 8470 | 27.2 | 40.2 | 47.7 | 1035 | 1074 | 1035 | 16.70 | 17.11 | 22.28 |
| Com'l. | 896 | 932 | 1117 | 6.8 | 5.7 | 6.3 | 985 | 981 | 939 | 14.42 | 14.56 | 18.27 |
| Utility | 193 | 281 | 297 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 928 | 920 | 909 | 12.73 | 12.68 | 15.71 |
| All grades | 13050 | 16406 | 17767 | | | | 1101 | 1111 | 1073 | 17.66 | 18.01 | 23.42 |
| **SIOUX CITY 1/** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prime | 208 | 360 | 118 | 2.9 | 3.9 | 1.2 | 1493 | 1366 | 1289 | 21.11 | 20.84 | 29.51 |
| Choice | 4063 | 4716 | 3270 | 56.3 | 49.9 | 33.0 | 1183 | 1197 | 1161 | 18.80 | 18.82 | 24.66 |
| Good | 2670 | 4109 | 5877 | 37.0 | 43.4 | 59.3 | 1074 | 1100 | 1077 | 17.05 | 17.17 | 22.20 |
| Com'l. | 221 | 177 | 515 | 3.1 | 1.9 | 5.2 | 969 | 1054 | 987 | 14.53 | 14.21 | 18.22 |
| Utility | 52 | 85 | 124 | .7 | .9 | 1.3 | 1050 | 889 | 957 | 13.04 | 12.64 | 15.60 |
| All grades | 7214 | 9456 | 9904 | | | | 1144 | 1157 | 1101 | 18.13 | 18.10 | 22.90 |
| **KANSAS CITY 1/** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prime | 81 | 80 | 24 | 1.2 | 1.0 | .5 | 1216 | 1294 | 1223 | 20.43 | 20.00 | 27.08 |
| Choice | 3119 | 3197 | 2463 | 46.9 | 44.0 | 47.5 | 1114 | 1112 | 1143 | 18.57 | 18.18 | 25.43 |
| Good | 2599 | 3001 | 2359 | 39.1 | 42.0 | 45.5 | 1068 | 1050 | 1002 | 16.84 | 16.93 | 21.96 |
| Com'l. | 638 | 827 | 300 | 9.6 | 12.0 | 5.8 | 1029 | 1030 | 984 | 14.94 | 15.18 | 18.25 |
| Utility | 208 | 97 | 39 | 3.2 | 1.0 | .7 | 976 | 980 | 856 | 13.07 | 13.16 | 16.08 |
| All grades | 6645 | 7202 | 5185 | | | | 1085 | 1077 | 1068 | 17.30 | 17.30 | 23.52 |
| **ST. LOUIS NSY 1/** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prime | -- | 3 | -- | -- | .1 | -- | -- | 1068 | -- | -- | 22.00 | -- |
| Choice | 1988 | 1906 | 503 | 30.5 | 27.7 | 10.8 | 1131 | 1130 | 1115 | 18.24 | 18.42 | 24.07 |
| Good | 3223 | 3339 | 2912 | 49.5 | 48.5 | 62.8 | 1000 | 1018 | 998 | 16.93 | 16.88 | 22.36 |
| Com'l. | 1187 | 1488 | 1046 | 18.2 | 21.6 | 22.6 | 960 | 962 | 948 | 14.91 | 15.02 | 19.80 |
| Utility | 114 | 146 | 178 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 3.8 | 829 | 793 | 826 | 13.07 | 13.15 | 16.61 |
| All grades | 6512 | 6882 | 4639 | | | | 1030 | 1032 | 993 | 16.97 | 16.92 | 21.94 |
| **S. ST. JOSEPH 1/** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prime | 14 | 75 | 8 | .2 | 1.2 | .1 | 1045 | 1195 | 1241 | 20.00 | 20.12 | 27.25 |
| Choice | 2567 | 2478 | 3343 | 46.6 | 41.6 | 51.5 | 1126 | 1145 | 1112 | 18.62 | 18.66 | 24.68 |
| Good | 2428 | 2377 | 2510 | 44.0 | 39.9 | 38.7 | 1058 | 1073 | 1014 | 17.04 | 17.07 | 21.59 |
| Com'l. | 456 | 896 | 563 | 8.3 | 15.0 | 8.7 | 950 | 1017 | 1023 | 14.54 | 15.02 | 17.92 |
| Utility | 48 | 137 | 68 | .9 | 2.3 | 1.0 | 835 | 918 | 902 | 12.77 | 12.94 | 15.28 |
| All grades | 5513 | 5963 | 6492 | | | | 1078 | 1092 | 1064 | 17.60 | 17.44 | 22.90 |

Continued.

## BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

| Grade | Number of head | | | Percent of total by grades | | | Average weight (pounds) | | | Average price in dollars per 100 lb. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Week ended | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Mar. 22 1956 | Mar. 15 1956 | Mar. 24 1955 | Mar. 22 1956 | Mar. 15 1956 | Mar. 24 1955 | Mar. 22 1956 | Mar. 15 1956 | Mar. 24 1955 | Mar. 22 1956 | Mar. 15 1956 | Mar. 24 1955 |
| | | | | | DENVER 1/ | | | | | | | |
| Prime | 8 | -- | -- | .2 | -- | -- | 1039 | -- | -- | 21.50 | -- | -- |
| Choice | 2768 | 2946 | 3586 | 70.7 | 67.5 | 69.4 | 1141 | 1156 | 1093 | 18.60 | 18.68 | 24.61 |
| Good | 1055 | 1344 | 1451 | 27.0 | 30.8 | 28.1 | 1073 | 1084 | 1051 | 17.24 | 17.06 | 23.12 |
| Com'l. | 64 | 75 | 107 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 2.1 | 977 | 1076 | 1085 | 14.95 | 14.19 | 16.84 |
| Utility | 18 | -- | 22 | .5 | -- | .4 | 882 | -- | 892 | 12.25 | -- | 14.03 |
| All grades | 3913 | 4365 | 5166 | | | | 1118 | 1133 | 1080 | 18.18 | 18.13 | 24.01 |

1/ These summaries developed from data collected on marketings of fed cattle by the Agricultural Estimates Division.

## ESTIMATED FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER AND MEAT PRODUCTION

| Week ended | Beef | | Veal | | Pork (excl. lard) | | Lamb and mutton | | Total meat prod. | Total lard prod. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Prod. | Number | Prod. | Number | Prod. | Number | Prod. | | |
| | 1,000 | mil. lb. | 1,000 | mil. lb. | 1,000 | mil. lb. | 1,000 | mil. lb. | mil. lb. | mil. lb. |
| Mar. 24, 1956 | 341 | 191.0 | 150 | 15.8 | 1,291 | 169.6 | 289 | 14.2 | 390.6 | 42.6 |
| Mar. 17, 1956 | 361 | 202.9 | 143 | 15.0 | 1,449 | 191.6 | 265 | 13.0 | 422.5 | 47.8 |
| Mar. 10, 1956 1/ | 358 | 204.4 | 142 | 15.3 | 1,582 | 207.1 | 265 | 13.0 | 439.8 | 57.4 |
| Mar. 26, 1955 | 332 | 176.5 | 135 | 13.8 | 1,098 | 150.2 | 275 | 13.5 | 354.0 | 38.6 |
| Percentage change from: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mar. 17, 1956 | - 6 | - 6 | + 5 | + 5 | -11 | -11 | + 9 | + 9 | - 8 | -11 |
| Mar. 26, 1955 | + 3 | + 8 | +11 | +14 | +18 | +13 | + 5 | + 5 | +10 | +10 |

| Week ended | Average weights (lb.) | | | | | | | | Lard yield per 100 lb. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cattle | | Calves | | Hogs | | Sheep and lambs | | |
| | Live | Dressed | Live | Dressed | Live | Dressed 2/ | Live | Dressed | |
| Mar. 24, 1956 | 1,010 | 560 | 190 | 105 | 231 | 131 | 104 | 49 | 14.3 |
| Mar. 17, 1956 | 1,015 | 562 | 190 | 105 | 232 | 132 | 104 | 49 | 14.2 |
| Mar. 10, 1956 | 1,025 | 571 | 195 | 108 | 230 | 131 | 104 | 49 | 14.1 |
| Mar. 26, 1955 | 971 | 532 | 184 | 102 | 239 | 137 | 106 | 49 | 14.7 |

1/ Actual slaughter and revised estimate of production. 2/ Excludes lard.

## TOTAL MEATS, MEAT PRODUCTS, AND BYPRODUCTS GRADED, OR CERTIFIED AS COMPLYING WITH SPECIFICATIONS BY THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

| Month | Beef | Veal and calf | Lamb, yearling and mutton | Total | All other meats and lard | Grand total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1,000# | 1,000# | 1,000# | 1,000# | 1,000# | 1,000# |
| February 1956 | 562,778 | 16,542 | 22,557 | 601,877 | 12,761 | 614,638 |
| January 1956 | 601,587 | 18,368 | 23,683 | 643,638 | 14,618 | 658,256 |
| February 1955 | 416,668 | 16,954 | 20,508 | 454,130 | 14,794 | 468,924 |

## WEEKLY SLAUGHTER UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION AT MAJOR CENTERS

| City or Area | Cattle | | Calves | | Hogs | | Sheep and lambs | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Mar. 24 1956 | Mar. 26 1955 | Mar. 24 1956 | Mar. 26 1955 | Mar. 24 1956 | Mar. 26 1955 | Mar. 24 1956 | Mar. 26 1955 |
| Boston, New York City Area 1/ | 12,795 | 11,744 | 13,023 | 12,051 | 54,745 | 50,437 | 46,832 | 46,887 |
| Baltimore, Philadelphia | 6,988 | 7,548 | 1,008 | 1,098 | 28,955 | 25,950 | 2,907 | 1,890 |
| Cin., Cleve., Detroit, Indpls. | 16,770 | 16,090 | 8,087 | 6,873 | 112,895 | 80,791 | 12,247 | 9,330 |
| Chicago Area | 25,708 | 25,523 | 7,135 | 6,133 | 53,300 | 61,450 | 6,199 | 5,859 |
| St. Paul-Wis Areas | 30,315 | 28,626 | 35,070 | 31,516 | 114,622 | 96,458 | 11,045 | 12,318 |
| St. Louis Area | 13,730 | 12,838 | 4,296 | 4,098 | 88,638 | 69,716 | 6,562 | 7,686 |
| Sioux City | 10,602 | 8,498 | 164 | 12 | 23,553 | 15,711 | 3,889 | 4,913 |
| Omaha Area | 27,618 | 30,264 | 669 | 798 | 77,022 | 59,716 | 13,567 | 19,668 |
| Kansas City | 12,865 | 13,380 | 2,475 | 2,378 | 36,139 | 28,461 | 11,531 | 13,554 |
| Iowa-So. Minnesota | 27,517 | 27,213 | 14,013 | 12,159 | 269,475 | 240,697 | 27,777 | 32,010 |
| Lou'l. Evan'l. Nash'l. Mph's. | 8,425 | 8,110 | 6,834 | 7,146 | 58,006 | 43,206 | Not available | |
| Georgia-Alabama Area | 6,217 | 6,361 | 2,398 | 3,043 | 30,908 | 22,804 | — | — |
| St. Jo'ph. Wichita, Okla. City | 17,652 | 17,469 | 3,053 | 2,524 | 56,596 | 46,437 | 18,022 | 12,297 |
| Ft. Worth, Dallas, San Antonio | 13,140 | 12,644 | 5,739 | 5,478 | 26,371 | 21,739 | 27,024 | 21,107 |
| Denver, Ogden, Salt Lake City | 16,548 | 16,805 | 970 | 1,126 | 15,968 | 14,581 | 28,513 | 22,681 |
| Los Angeles, San Fran. Areas | 25,200 | 24,127 | 3,066 | 2,808 | 36,379 | 33,009 | 33,476 | 28,727 |
| Portland, Seattle, Spokane | 7,084 | 6,569 | 614 | 350 | 19,096 | 15,019 | 4,588 | 3,828 |
| Total | 279,174 | 273,809 | 108,614 | 99,591 | 1,102,668 | 926,182 | 254,179 | 242,755 |
| Accumulation to date | 3,594,288 | 3,382,627 | 1,247,603 | 1,229,566 | 15,038,353 | 12,514,825 | 3,002,535 | 2,920,088 |

1/ Boston-New York City Area for March 17, 1956 revised. Cattle 13,352, Calves 12,884, Hogs 61,028, Sheep 43,282.

# CATTLE: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

| Classification | Chicago | | | Kansas City | | | Omaha | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 24 1956 | Mar. 17 1956 | 26 1955 | 24 1956 | Mar. 17 1956 | 26 1955 | 24 1956 | Mar. 17 1956 | 26 1955 |
| **Slaughter cattle, calves and vealers** | | | | | | | | | |
| Steers - | | | | | | | | | |
| Prime 900-1100# | 23.58 | 23.52 | 31.15 | 21.75 | 21.78 | 28.48 | 22.92 | 23.25 | 29.78 |
| 1100-1300 | 23.52 | 23.45 | 32.05 | 21.40 | 21.52 | 28.98 | 22.90 | 23.00 | 30.40 |
| Choice 900-1100 | 20.18 | 20.30 | 27.48 | 19.15 | 19.30 | 25.35 | 19.58 | 20.18 | 26.40 |
| 1100-1300 | 20.05 | 20.12 | 27.48 | 18.65 | 18.80 | 25.35 | 19.58 | 20.18 | 26.40 |
| Good 900-1100 | 17.38 | 17.38 | 22.25 | 16.65 | 16.80 | 21.62 | 16.30 | 16.72 | 21.90 |
| Com'l. All wts. | 15.02 | 15.02 | 18.22 | 15.00 | 15.02 | 18.20 | 14.15 | 14.38 | 18.40 |
| Heifers - | | | | | | | | | |
| Prime 600-800# | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Choice " " | 18.48 | 18.62 | 23.80 | 18.50 | 18.50 | 22.78 | 18.30 | 18.38 | 23.28 |
| Good 500-900 | 16.44 | 16.58 | 20.50 | 16.50 | 16.52 | 19.85 | 16.18 | 16.25 | 19.62 |
| Com'l. All wts. | 14.40 | 14.42 | 17.35 | 14.50 | 14.50 | 16.72 | 13.88 | 13.88 | 16.15 |
| Cows - All weights | | | | | | | | | |
| Commercial | 13.00 | 13.00 | 14.80 | 13.00 | 12.78 | 14.12 | 13.00 | 12.95 | 14.65 |
| Utility | 11.88 | 11.75 | 13.40 | 12.12 | 11.92 | 12.88 | 11.75 | 11.62 | 13.02 |
| Canner & Cutter | 11.00 | 11.00 | 11.52 | 11.00 | 10.95 | 11.20 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.90 |
| Bulls - All weights - | | | | | | | | | |
| Good | 12.90 | 12.75 | 13.50 | -- | -- | -- | 12.62 | 12.50 | 12.70 |
| Utility & Commercial | 15.06 | 14.84 | 15.65 | 13.62 | 13.62 | 13.05 | 13.62 | 13.44 | 14.12 |
| Vealers - All weights - | | | | | | | | | |
| Choice & Prime | 24.50 | 24.50 | 26.30 | 22.00 | 21.40 | 22.40 | 21.00 | 21.00 | 22.50 |
| Com'l. & Good | 19.00 | 19.00 | 21.00 | 18.00 | 17.70 | 18.40 | 16.50 | 16.50 | 17.50 |
| Calves - 500# down | | | | | | | | | |
| Choice & Prime | 19.50 | 19.50 | 21.80 | 17.95 | 17.45 | 19.50 | 18.75 | 18.75 | 20.50 |
| Com'l. & Good | 15.00 | 15.00 | 16.90 | 15.50 | 15.05 | 16.40 | 14.50 | 14.50 | 16.00 |
| **Feeder and stocker cattle and calves** | | | | | | | | | |
| Steers - | | | | | | | | | |
| Choice 500-800# | 19.50 | 19.50 | 23.42 | 19.50 | 19.25 | 23.75 | 19.38 | 19.38 | 23.25 |
| Good " " | 16.50 | 16.50 | 20.42 | 17.50 | 17.50 | 21.00 | 17.25 | 17.25 | 20.62 |
| Medium 500-1000 | 15.00 | 14.80 | 17.55 | 15.25 | 15.12 | 17.75 | 14.75 | 14.75 | 17.75 |
| Heifers - | | | | | | | | | |
| Choice 500-750 | 16.75 | 16.65 | 19.10 | 17.00 | 17.00 | 19.50 | 16.75 | 16.75 | 18.75 |
| Med. & Gd. " " | 14.00 | 13.80 | 15.70 | 14.50 | 14.50 | 16.25 | 13.62 | 13.62 | 15.75 |
| Cows - All weights - | | | | | | | | | |
| Medium & Good | -- | -- | -- | 12.00 | 12.00 | 12.25 | 11.38 | 11.38 | 12.25 |
| Calves - 300-500# - | | | | | | | | | |
| Steers - | | | | | | | | | |
| Good & Choice | 21.00 | 21.00 | 22.50 | 20.00 | 19.50 | 22.75 | 20.50 | 20.50 | 22.50 |
| Heifers - | | | | | | | | | |
| Good & Choice | 17.50 | 17.50 | 19.00 | 17.00 | 17.00 | 19.00 | 17.00 | 17.00 | 19.62 |

# HOGS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

| Classification | | Chicago | | | Interior Iowa and southern Minnesota | | | Indianapolis | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 24 1956 | Mar. 17 1956 | 26 1955 | 24 1956 | Mar. 17 1956 | 26 1955 | 24 1956 | Mar. 17 1956 | 26 1955 |
| Barrows and gilts – | | | | | | | | | | |
| U.S.No.1 | 160–180# | 12.84 | 11.65 | 16.52 | 11.98 | 10.76 | 15.00 | 12.75 | 11.38 | 16.72 |
| 2 and 3 | 180–200 | 13.86 | 12.65 | 17.32 | 13.42 | 12.30 | 16.36 | 13.84 | 12.65 | 17.62 |
| | 200–220 | 13.98 | 12.75 | 17.32 | 13.92 | 12.79 | 16.60 | 13.98 | 12.73 | 17.60 |
| | 220–240 | 13.95 | 12.78 | 17.25 | 13.60 | 12.47 | 16.34 | 13.81 | 12.62 | 17.40 |
| | 240–270 | 13.80 | 12.58 | 16.90 | 13.19 | 12.05 | 15.79 | 13.50 | 12.25 | 16.79 |
| | 270–300 | 13.55 | 12.35 | 16.57 | 12.70 | 11.55 | 15.13 | 13.05 | 11.90 | 16.20 |
| Sows – | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 300–330# | 12.10 | 11.65 | 15.68 | 12.35 | 11.25 | 14.50 | 11.75 | 10.92 | 15.00 |
| | 360–400 | 11.85 | 11.15 | 15.32 | 11.35 | 10.78 | 13.97 | 11.40 | 10.62 | 14.82 |
| | 450–550 | 11.15 | 10.58 | 14.58 | 11.03 | 10.13 | 12.82 | 10.25 | 9.82 | 14.28 |
| Pigs (stocker and feeder)– | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gd. & Ch. | 70–120# | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

| | | Omaha | | | St. Louis National Stock Yards | | | Sioux City | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barrows and gilts – | | | | | | | | | | |
| U.S.No.1 | 160–180# | -- | -- | -- | 13.35 | 12.30 | 17.35 | -- | -- | -- |
| 2 and 3 | 180–200 | 14.45 | 13.30 | 17.18 | 14.04 | 13.00 | 17.46 | 14.10 | 13.12 | 16.85 |
| | 200–220 | 14.45 | 13.30 | 17.18 | 14.07 | 13.05 | 17.47 | 14.45 | 13.30 | 16.95 |
| | 220–240 | 14.45 | 13.30 | 17.05 | 14.01 | 12.88 | 17.24 | 14.45 | 13.28 | 16.85 |
| | 240–270 | 14.08 | 12.92 | 16.55 | 13.65 | 12.41 | 16.80 | 14.08 | 12.98 | 16.35 |
| | 270–300 | 13.70 | 12.48 | 15.95 | 13.16 | 12.09 | 16.30 | 13.55 | 12.42 | 15.78 |
| Sows – | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 300–330# | 12.98 | 11.72 | -- | 12.20 | 11.38 | 15.35 | 12.68 | 11.62 | 14.82 |
| | 360–400 | 12.32 | 11.28 | 14.98 | 11.82 | 11.00 | 15.10 | 12.40 | 11.25 | 14.40 |
| | 450–550 | 11.60 | 10.75 | 14.35 | 11.02 | 10.25 | 14.40 | 11.50 | 10.42 | 13.72 |
| Pigs (stocker & feeder)– | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gd. & Ch. | 70–120# | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

| | | S. St. Paul | | | Baltimore | | | N. Portland | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barrows and gilts – | | | | | | | | | | |
| U.S.No.1 | 160–180# | 13.20 | 12.50 | 16.98 | 14.34 | 13.38 | 17.94 | 15.25 | 14.25 | 18.44 |
| 2 and 3 | 180–200 | 14.58 | 13.40 | 17.10 | 14.75 | 13.78 | 18.06 | 15.75 | 14.75 | 18.95 |
| | 200–220 | 14.58 | 13.40 | 16.95 | 14.85 | 13.78 | 18.06 | 15.75 | 14.75 | 18.95 |
| | 220–240 | 14.58 | 13.40 | 16.78 | 14.78 | 13.50 | 17.69 | 15.62 | 14.50 | 18.75 |
| | 240–270 | 14.12 | 12.95 | 16.25 | 14.22 | 12.88 | 17.19 | 14.38 | 13.25 | 17.75 |
| | 270–300 | 13.28 | 12.22 | 15.72 | 13.06 | 12.00 | 16.44 | 14.00 | 13.00 | 17.38 |
| Sows – | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 300–330# | 12.32 | 11.28 | 15.00 | 10.94 | 10.29 | 15.56 | 12.50 | 12.25 | 16.25 |
| | 360–400 | 11.82 | 11.02 | 14.22 | 10.94 | 10.29 | 15.56 | 11.50 | 11.00 | 15.50 |
| | 450–550 | 11.20 | 10.40 | 13.78 | 9.69 | 9.17 | 13.50 | 10.50 | 10.00 | 14.88 |
| Pigs (stocker & feeder)– | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gd. & Ch. | 70–120# | 11.10 | 10.40 | 16.95 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 12.75 | -- |

## HOGS: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER OF PACKER AND SHIPPER PURCHASES 1/

| | Week ended | Chicago | St. Louis Natl. Stock Yards | Kansas City | Omaha | Sioux City | S. St. Joseph | S. St. Paul | Indianapolis | 8 mkts. combined |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AVERAGE COST - | | | | | Dollars per 100 pounds | | | | | |
| Barrows and gilts | Mar. 24,1956 | 13.72 | 13.82 | 14.13 | 14.04 | 14.10 | 14.15 | 13.82 | 13.72 | 13.87 |
| | Mar. 17,1956 | 12.53 | 12.70 | 12.94 | 12.94 | 12.87 | 13.00 | 12.64 | 12.58 | 12.72 |
| | Mar. 26,1955 | 16.85 | 17.17 | 17.16 | 16.36 | 16.17 | 16.97 | 16.47 | 17.22 | 16.77 |
| Sows | Mar. 24,1956 | 11.68 | 11.46 | 11.34 | 12.21 | 11.92 | 11.96 | 11.68 | 10.64 | 11.51 |
| | Mar. 17,1956 | 10.95 | 10.67 | 10.79 | 11.13 | 10.71 | 10.93 | 10.63 | 10.06 | 10.71 |
| | Mar. 26,1955 | 15.02 | 14.80 | 14.90 | 14.56 | 14.09 | 15.14 | 14.45 | 14.43 | 14.66 |
| AVERAGE WEIGHT - | | | | | Pounds | | | | | |
| Barrows and gilts | Mar. 24,1956 | 233 | 220 | 218 | 224 | 232 | 216 | 220 | 222 | 223 |
| | Mar. 17,1956 | 236 | 219 | 217 | 227 | 234 | 216 | 220 | 224 | 224 |
| | Mar. 26,1955 | 247 | 220 | 223 | 247 | 248 | 231 | 234 | 225 | 235 |
| Sows | Mar. 24,1956 | 424 | 406 | 414 | 394 | 410 | 375 | 393 | 447 | 413 |
| | Mar. 17,1956 | 422 | 408 | 400 | 403 | 411 | 394 | 394 | 449 | 415 |
| | Mar. 26,1955 | 429 | 406 | 438 | 422 | 420 | 401 | 394 | 444 | 419 |
| NUMBER OF HEAD - | | | | | | | | | | |
| Barrows and gilts | Mar. 24,1956 | 32200 | 59513 | 12027 | 28469 | 22860 | 23876 | 52561 | 54396 | 285902 |
| | Mar. 17,1956 | 34900 | 58094 | 10857 | 33032 | 26469 | 23866 | 52739 | 51715 | 291672 |
| | Mar. 26,1955 | 38833 | 41355 | 6986 | 29481 | 25603 | 18110 | 41755 | 41415 | 243538 |
| Sows | Mar. 24,1956 | 4416 | 3540 | 542 | 2846 | 1357 | 1297 | 3161 | 4346 | 21505 |
| | Mar. 17,1956 | 5258 | 3469 | 729 | 2806 | 1153 | 1522 | 2876 | 3505 | 21318 |
| | Mar. 26,1955 | 3529 | 1883 | 250 | 2927 | 1154 | 1168 | 2791 | 2390 | 16092 |
| SOWS | | | | | Percentage of total | | | | | |
| | Mar. 24,1956 | 12 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 7 |
| | Mar. 17,1956 | 13 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | Mar. 26,1955 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 |

1/ Weighted average.

### WEEKLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE VALUE OF HOG PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM 100 LB. LIVE HOG, COMPARED WITH PRICES OF LIVE HOGS, CHICAGO

| | Hog products 1/ | Hog prices 2/ | Gross spread or margin 3/ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mar. 24, 1956 | 16.03 | 13.86 | +$2.17 |
| Mar. 17, 1956 | 15.24 | 12.65 | + 2.59 |
| Mar. 26, 1955 | 18.68 | 17.32 | + 1.36 |

1/ Value of all edible products, fresh basis (lard rendered) in 100 lb. of live hog computed from wholesale prices on carlot basis, Chicago, reported by National Provisioner daily market report.

2/ Mean of daily quotations on U.S.No. 1, 2 and 3 hogs 180-200# wt.Chicago.

3/ Difference between wholesale product value and hog prices.

### HOG AND CORN PRICES AT CHICAGO AND HOG-CORN PRICE RATIO

| Week ended | Barrows and gilts Dollars per 100 pounds | Corn, 1/ No. 3, yellow Cents per bushel | Hog-corn price ratio based on barrows and gilts |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mar. 24, 1956 | 13.72 | 133.5 | 10.3 |
| Mar. 17, 1956 | 12.53 | 130.5 | 9.6 |
| Mar. 26, 1955 | 16.85 | 148.9 | 11.3 |

1/ Simple average price.

## SHEEP AND LAMBS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

| | | Chicago | Omaha | Kansas City | Fort Worth | Denver | Ogden & North Salt Lake | South San Francisco |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LAMBS - 110# down (WOOLED) - | | | | | | | | |
| Choice and Prime | Mar. 24, 1956 | 20.68 | 19.92 | 19.98 | -- | 19.72 | -- | -- |
| | Mar. 17, 1956 | 21.15 | 20.35 | 20.42 | -- | 19.70 | -- | -- |
| | Mar. 26, 1955 | 24.06 | 23.40 | 22.95 | -- | 22.86 | -- | 21.50 |
| Good and Choice | Mar. 24, 1956 | 19.98 | 19.10 | 18.85 | 19.75* | 18.78 | 17.25 | 20.75* |
| | Mar. 17, 1956 | 20.42 | 19.50 | 19.30 | 20.10* | 18.80 | 17.40 | 18.00 |
| | Mar. 26, 1955 | 23.45 | 22.32 | 22.00 | 24.00* | 21.28 | 21.00 | 20.25 |
| EWES (WOOLED) - | | | | | | | | |
| Good and Choice | Mar. 24, 1956 | 7.90 | 6.75 | 5.25 | -- | 8.90 | 7.00 | -- |
| | Mar. 17, 1956 | 7.75 | 7.00 | 5.25 | -- | 9.50 | 7.00 | 7.00 |
| | Mar. 26, 1955 | 8.25 | 8.50 | 8.02 | -- | 9.50 | -- | 7.50 |
| Cull and Utility | Mar. 24, 1956 | 6.00 | 4.75 | 4.00 | -- | 6.22 | 4.50 | -- |
| | Mar. 17, 1956 | 6.00 | 5.00 | 4.00 | -- | 6.92 | 4.50 | -- |
| | Mar. 26, 1955 | 6.75 | 6.75 | 6.52 | -- | 6.38 | -- | 4.50 |
| FEEDER LAMBS - | | | | | | | | |
| Good and Choice | Mar. 24, 1956 | -- | 17.85 | -- | 16.15 | 18.00 | -- | -- |
| | Mar. 17, 1956 | -- | 18.50 | -- | 16.45 | 18.00 | -- | -- |
| | Mar. 26, 1955 | -- | 21.00 | -- | 18.40 | 20.75 | -- | -- |

*Spring lambs.

## ESTIMATED PERCENT FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE AND SLAUGHTER COWS IN SALABLE RECEIPTS

| Week ended | Chicago | Kansas City | Omaha | S. St. Joseph | St.Louis NSY | Sioux City | S. St. Paul |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Feeders and stockers | | | | |
| Mar. 23, 1956 | 3 | 36 | 13 | 13 | 8 | 20 | 7 |
| Mar. 16, 1956 | 2 | 32 | 8 | 13 | 8 | 17 | 8 |
| Mar. 25, 1955 | 4 | 34 | 9 | 16 | 4 | 18 | 7 |
| | | | Slaughter cows | | | | |
| Mar. 23, 1956 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 10 | 17 | 10 | 28 |
| Mar. 16, 1956 | 6 | 8 | 11 | 10 | 13 | 8 | 27 |
| Mar. 25, 1955 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 11 | 14 | 5 | 33 |

| Week ended | Indianapolis | Denver | Fort Worth | Okla. City | Wichita | San Antonio |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Feeders and stockers | | | |
| Mar. 23, 1956 | 9 | 5 | 20 | 55 | 31 | 35 |
| Mar. 16, 1956 | 9 | 5 | 18 | 55 | 31 | 45 |
| Mar. 25, 1955 | 7 | 8 | 35 | 45 | 38 | 35 |
| | | | Slaughter cows | | | |
| Mar. 23, 1956 | 12 | 8 | 15 | 11 | 18 | 25 |
| Mar. 16, 1956 | 10 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 18 | 25 |
| Mar. 25, 1955 | 21 | 8 | 13 | 15 | 21 | 27 |

## NEW YORK WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

### Western Dressed Fresh Meats

Trading was at a standstill and fresh meat operations were virtually paralyzed at the week's opening as the worst storm of the year blanketed the Metropolitan area. Subsequent to Monday, however, trade was fairly active. Receipts of steer beef were of about the same volume as during the previous week, with offerings of cow beef somewhat reduced. Supply of veal, calf, lamb and fresh pork ranged from mostly moderate to small. Trading in beef lacked stability while prices of other classes worked higher, with sharp upturns on veal, calf and fresh pork loins. Compared with the previous Friday: Prime steer beef $2.25 to $3.00 higher, other grades steady; cow beef unchanged; veal $1.00 lower to $3.00 higher; calf $1.00 to $4.00 higher; lamb $1.00 to $3.00 up; pork loins $5.00-6.00 higher, other fresh pork cuts steady to $2.00 lower.

Good and Choice 700-900# steer carcasses predominated and only token quantities of Prime beef were available. Prices on Prime carcasses and wholesale cuts were sharply higher, while Good and Choice sold about in line with previous week. Ribs and short loins sold dependably, while trade was slow for arm chucks and rounds. Bulk of cow beef offerings, low-Commercial and Utility, held about steady under pressure, but sellers found ready outlet for the small volume of high-Commercial.

Prices on most veal and calf worked upward, with early clearances. Higher prices were posted on lamb offerings, and the advance was well sustained throughout the week. Bulk of Western dressed lamb weighed 50# and below, and cleared at $38.00-42.00, with 55 to 65# at $36.00-39.00, some spring lamb bringing $43.00-48.00.

Shipments of fresh pork were reduced in both packer and independent wholesale establishments. Fresh loin prices worked progressively higher as the result of a fair inquiry. Trading on other fresh pork cuts, however, was less active and small concessions were necessary to clear stocks of fresh skinned hams, spareribs and Boston butts.

### Locally Dressed Fresh Meats

Early production of locally dressed fresh meats was curtailed, due to adverse weather conditions. Later slaughter figures, however, indicated about normal output of beef, calf and lamb as compared with the previous week, with some reduction in hog slaughter. Trading returned to normal activity following the Monday session when the severe snow brought trade to a virtual standstill. The non-kosher beef trade was rather featureless, with a particular lag on some cuts late. Advances were recorded in veal, calf, lamb and fresh pork prices, while kosher classes moved dependably, with action brisk in spots, and prices mostly higher.

Steer carcasses 700# up grading Choice predominated, with Prime offerings scarce along with 600-700# carcasses. Hindquarter prices showed little change, but Prime sold steady to strong. Ribs and short loins moved into both retail channels and hotel supply outlets, with selected lots usually selling higher. Arm chucks and rounds sold under pressure, while outlet for hips was limited as out-of-town accounts were isolated. Current prices on kosher forequarters, arm chucks and ribs are mostly higher, with maximum upturns on Prime offerings.

All grades and weights of veal and calf cleared readily at fully steady prices. Weakness was apparent, however, toward the close, but mainly on lower grades. Lamb prices held mostly steady, with considerable strength on carcasses 55# down. About 10 to 15% of the total kill consisted of spring lamb which found ready outlet. Prices of kosher lamb foresaddles advanced, with demand fairly broad and early clearances the rule. Prices showed upturns of as much as $5.00.

Supply of locally dressed fresh pork was moderately reduced, and fresh loins cleared readily at daily upturns. Other primal fresh cuts, however, usually showed easiness. Most retail interests participated in the fresh loin trade and daily clearances were usually complete.

## CHICAGO WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Total offerings of all fresh meats were of about the same volume as a week earlier. Good and Choice grades predominated in beef, with weights over 700# well represented. Early in the week the local beef supply was augmented by carloads which could not be moved East because of heavy snows there. Bulk of the veal was Commercial to average-Choice. Volume of lamb and fresh pork was only moderate, some spots reporting shortages of butts and loins. Prices on all classes except beef turned upward, influenced more by higher replacement costs than by a broader demand. Trade on lamb, veal and pork locally was only fairly active, but clearances will usually be complete. The week's tops of $40.00 for pork loins and $31.00 for Boston butts were highest since February 1, this year. Closing quotations on Choice and Prime dressed lamb are the highest since December 9, 1955. Small offerings Prime beef were usually broken into primal cuts. Trading on carcass beef grading Choice and lower was slow for the most part. Demand for beef loins and ribs 35# down expanded considerably with prices as much as $2.00 higher. Trade on chucks and rounds was less active and a carryover of chucks is anticipated. Compared to last Thursday's close: Beef about steady; veal steady to mostly $1.00 higher; lamb $1.00 to 2.00 higher; pork loins 8-16# $4.50-5.00 up; Boston butts $2.50-5.00 higher; spareribs 3# and down steady to 50¢ higher.

Choice and Prime squarecut beef chucks cleared at $24.00-26.00; Prime rounds $40.00-41.00, Choice $37.00-38.00; Prime loins $82.00-85.00, Choice $56.00-62.00; Prime ribs $56.00-58.00, Choice $39.00-42.00; Choice and Prime kosher style chucks $26.00-29.00. Lamb hindsaddles brought $47.00-53.00; legs $44.00-50.00; loins $55.00-62.00; hotel ribs $48.00-53.00.

## PACIFIC COAST WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Supplies of most fresh meats were adequate for a reduced pre-Easter demand. Bulk of the steer beef offerings consisted of Good and Choice carcasses under 600# in the San Francisco area. Cow beef was rather scarce at all points. Trading was slow at Los Angeles and fair in other areas, with considerable price resistance causing buyers to await future developments. Cooler stocks were moderate to small with kills being curtailed due to the Lenten season. Prices compared with the previous Friday: Steer beef largely steady to $1.00 higher, instances 50¢ lower on Choice at Los Angeles; veal and calf mostly steady; lamb steady, some sales $1.00 higher in the Northwest; fresh pork loins $2.00-5.00 higher; other fresh pork steady to $1.00 higher; cured pork and lard mostly steady except smoked skinned hams $1.00 higher at Los Angeles.

Choice steer carcasses under 700# cashed from $31.00-35.00, few under 600# $36.00 at San Francisco; Good 500-700# $28.00-32.00; Commercial $26.00-30.00. Commercial cows sold mostly at $24.00-27.00, Utility $22.00-26.00; Canner and Cutter $18.00-23.00.

Good and Choice veal carcasses under 150# brought $37.00-46.00, few Choice $49.00 at Seattle; Good and Choice calf under 300# $31.00-44.00. A few Choice and Prime spring lamb carcasses brought $38.00-42.00 at San Francisco; Choice and Prime old crop lamb under 58# $33.00-39.00 in California and up to $41.00 in the Northwest; Good all weights $30.00-38.00. Closely trimmed pork loins under 16# bulked at $39.00-42.00; shoulders under 16# $24.00-30.00; Boston butts under 8# $29.00-36.00; spareribs under 3# $34.00-41.00; smoked skinned hams under 18# $45.00-52.00, few to $54.00 at Los Angeles; slab bacon under 10# $28.00-40.00; sliced 1# packages $34.00-42.00; smoked picnics under 8# $26.00-33.00; lard in 1# cartons $13.50-18.00.

## WHOLESALE DRESSED MEAT PRICES: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

| Classification | New York | | | Chicago | | | San Francisco | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 24 1956 | Mar. 17 1956 | 26 1955 | 24 1956 | Mar. 17 1956 | 26 1955 | 24 1956 | Mar. 17 1956 | 26 1955 |
| Beef – | | | | | | | | | |
| Steer – | | | | | | | | | |
| Prime 600–700# | 40.62 | 38.00 | -- | 36.75 | 36.80 | 49.50 | -- | -- | -- |
| 700–800 | 39.00 | 36.00 | 50.50 | 36.75 | 36.80 | 49.50 | -- | -- | -- |
| Choice 500–600 | -- | -- | -- | 32.30 | 32.50 | 40.20 | 35.00 | 33.00 | 40.50 |
| 600–700 | 33.25 | 33.65 | 43.40 | 32.30 | 32.50 | 42.20 | 33.00 | 31.80 | 39.00 |
| Good 350–600 | 29.50 | 30.00 | 37.70 | 27.55 | 28.05 | 35.10 | 32.25 | 30.50 | 38.00 |
| Com'l. " " | 28.00 | 28.00 | 33.50 | 26.25 | 26.25 | 31.95 | 29.00 | 28.00 | 35.00 |
| Cow, all wts. – | | | | | | | | | |
| Commercial | 26.00 | 26.00 | 29.90 | -- | -- | -- | 26.00 | 26.00 | 30.00 |
| Utility | 24.00 | 24.00 | 25.90 | -- | -- | -- | 23.00 | 23.00 | 27.00 |
| Veal – | | | | | | | | | |
| Prime 80–110# | 40.90 | 40.50 | 44.20 | 41.50 | 40.90 | 43.50 | -- | -- | -- |
| Choice " " | 36.10 | 34.70 | 37.80 | 36.80 | 36.00 | 40.30 | -- | -- | -- |
| Good " " | 30.70 | 30.50 | 33.20 | 33.80 | 33.00 | 36.60 | 43.00 | 43.00 | 41.00 |
| Lamb – | | | | | | | | | |
| Prime 40–50# | 39.10 | 37.00 | 45.70 | 38.15 | 37.05 | 44.20 | 38.00 | 38.00 | 44.00 |
| 50–60 | 37.20 | 35.00 | 45.70 | 35.70 | 34.30 | 42.40 | 37.00 | 37.00 | 41.50 |
| Choice 40–50 | 38.90 | 37.00 | 44.00 | 38.15 | 37.05 | 43.20 | 37.00 | 38.00 | 43.00 |
| 50–60 | 37.20 | 35.00 | 44.00 | 35.70 | 34.30 | 40.70 | 35.00 | 35.00 | 41.00 |
| Good all wts. | 36.80 | 35.00 | 41.80 | 35.25 | 33.60 | 39.00 | 35.50 | 35.50 | 39.50 |
| Pork – Fresh – | | | | | | | | | |
| Loins 8–10# av. | 38.20 | 33.70 | 43.90 | 37.20 | 33.20 | 41.90 | 39.00 | 38.50 | 46.80 |
| 10–12 " | 38.20 | 33.70 | 43.90 | 37.20 | 33.20 | 41.90 | 41.50 | 39.50 | 44.80 |
| 12–16 " | 37.50 | 32.90 | 42.40 | 36.85 | 32.30 | 40.90 | 39.00 | 39.00 | 42.50 |
| Butts 4–8 " | 27.70 | 28.40 | 34.70 | 26.90 | 24.30 | 33.10 | 34.00 | 34.00 | 39.00 |
| Pork – Cured – | | | | | | | | | |
| Hams, smk., skd. – | | | | | | | | | |
| 12–16# av. | 47.00 | 47.50 | 49.00 | 50.10 | 50.20 | 48.05 | 50.00 | 50.00 | 52.20 |
| 16–18 " | 43.50 | 46.00 | 45.00 | 49.30 | 49.50 | 46.25 | 49.50 | 48.90 | 49.80 |
| 18–20 " | -- | -- | -- | 48.75 | 48.80 | 46.20 | -- | -- | -- |
| Bacon, smk., slab – | | | | | | | | | |
| 6–8# av. | -- | -- | -- | 31.35 | 31.45 | 44.40 | 38.00 | 38.00 | 53.00 |
| 8–10 " | 34.50 | 32.50 | 37.50 | 28.40 | 29.20 | 41.65 | 36.00 | 36.00 | 46.00 |
| Sliced 1 # pkg. | 35.70 | 36.50 | 46.50 | 35.60 | 36.00 | 48.60 | 40.00 | 40.00 | 51.00 |
| Picnics, smoked – | | | | | | | | | |
| 4–8# av. | 25.00 | 24.00 | 33.00 | 28.40 | 28.80 | 33.40 | 28.00 | 28.00 | 34.00 |
| Backs, D. S. – | | | | | | | | | |
| 16–20# av. | 14.00 | 13.50 | 14.50 | 11.75 | 11.75 | 11.50 | -- | -- | -- |
| Lard, 1# cartons – | | | | | | | | | |
| Refined | 15.50 | 16.00 | 16.00 | 14.25 | 14.38 | 14.95 | 17.25 | 17.25 | 17.50 |
| Substitutes | -- | -- | -- | 25.00 | 25.00 | 28.00 | -- | -- | -- |

Note: Quotations at New York exclude locally dressed meats.

# BOSTON WOOL MARKET REVIEW

Movement of greasy domestic worsted wool in the Boston market was further curtailed as approximately five cars of various graded wools were moved. Although trade was dull, a firm undertonewas evident throughout on domestic and foreign wools with some new business from the New York cloth market. The few sales locally were mainly to vertical mills while topmakers remained inactive. Activity continued in New Mexico, Arizona, California and scattered sections of the Territory states, while severe storm conditions halted operations in most of the Fleece wool states.

Cabled reports from Australia indicated a firmer tone as Japan and the Continent dominated with good support from the United States and England. New Zealand quotes advanced up to 2½% with the Continent, England and the United States buying. South African prices held firm with good general competition, while prices on South American markets remained firm but with trading slow.

Fleece Wools - Graded 56/58s good French combing and staple Fleeces at 53¢ were estimated to cost around $1.00 clean basis, while graded 50/54s good French and staple moved at 52¢ and 53¢, grease basis, and cost clean from 93¢ to 95¢. A graded low 1/4 blood 46/48s strictly staple wool sold at 93¢ clean basis. Country buyers were paying 40¢ and 42¢ grease basis to the growers.

Territory Wools - Graded 64s good French combing and staple Territory wool sold at a clean price ranging from $1.26 to $1.30 while graded low 1/4 blood 46/48s strictly staple wool brought 97¢ clean basis. A substantial volume of Arizona wool sold at grease prices ranging from 41 5/8¢ to 45½¢ to the growers. The estimated clean costs delivered Boston ranged from $1.22 to $1.28 for fine wool and from $1.12 to $1.22 for crossbred wools. Mixed clips in Idaho sold at 45¢ grease basis, delivered Eastern mill. New clip Bakersfield, California wool sold at 40¢ to 46 3/4¢ while 47½¢ was paid in the Los Banos section.

Texas Wools - Turnover of Texas wool in Boston and Texas was dormant.

Mohair - A car or two of Mohair moved in Texas at 78½¢ to 81½¢ for Adult and 88½¢- 91½¢ for Kid Mohair to the warehouse.

Sales of CCC Wools - The Commodity Credit Corporation announced on March 22, that approximately 470,000 pounds of C.C.C. - owned wools were sold, from bids received on a total of about 3,400,000 pounds. The grades, quantities and sales price ranges (before discounts, if any) follow:

| | Pounds | Price Range |
|---|---|---|
| Graded Territory fine staple and good French | 10,386 | $1.32 |
| " Fleece staple and good French 50/54s | 244,077 | $1.001 - 1.003 |
| " " " " " " 48/50s | 42,759 | .97 - .9925 |
| Scoured shorn Fleece 3/8s staple and good French | 146,052 | 1.081 - 1.097 |
| " pulled woolen type 60s | 26,140 | 1.17 |

Foreign Wools - Spot Buenos Aires greasy 44s sold at 85¢ and 87¢ clean fibers present in bond while greasy New Zealand 44s brought 79¢ clean in bond and greasy Australian 44s sold at $1.00 clean basis, duty paid. Greasy B.A. 36/40s Fleeces were offered for shipment at 83¢ clean basis while super Monte 60s and 58/60s were offered at 66¢ grease basis in bond for shipment. Firm offerings from Australia quoted type 57 at $1.16; 58s at $1.13; 423/2 at $1.04 and 433/2 at 1.02; New Zealand type 834 at 87¢; 100 at 83¢; 107 at 83¢; 114 at 83¢ and 128 at 83¢. Firm offerings from South Africa follow: type 17 at $1.27; 22 at $1.22; 27 at 1.18; 28 at 1.16; 32 at 1.16 and 33 at $1.15. Above quotes based on clean U.S. yields, in bond.

Carpet Wools - There was a sharp advance in quotations of Carpet wools as New Zealand Fleeces were priced at 87¢ clean fibers present while White Vicaneer Pakistan/India wools were quoted at 88¢ for shipment and Buenos Aires shippers were asking 82¢ for March and 83¢ for November second clips and Carpet Fleeces. Spot super White Vicaneer wool was priced at 93¢ clean fibers present.

CLASSIFICATION OF LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION 1/

| | Number (000 omitted) | | | | Percent | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb. 1956 | Jan. 1956 | Jan.-Feb. 1956 | Feb. 1955 | Feb. 1956 | Jan. 1956 | Jan.-Feb. 1956 | Feb. 1955 |
| Cattle: | | | | | | | | |
| Steers | 803 | 896 | 1,699 | 618 | 54.1 | 52.8 | 53.4 | 47.1 |
| Heifers | 230 | 260 | 490 | 221 | 15.5 | 15.3 | 15.4 | 16.8 |
| Cows | 426 | 512 | 938 | 450 | 28.7 | 30.2 | 29.5 | 34.3 |
| Bulls & stags | 25 | 29 | 54 | 24 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.8 |
| Total 2/ | 1,484 | 1,697 | 3,181 | 1,313 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Canners & cutters 3/ | 202 | 258 | 460 | 214 | 13.6 | 15.2 | 14.5 | 16.3 |
| Hogs: | | | | | | | | |
| Sows | 320 | 375 | 695 | 190 | 5.4 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 4.1 |
| Barrows & gilts | 5,567 | 6,296 | 11,863 | 4,425 | 94.0 | 93.9 | 94.0 | 95.4 |
| Stags & boars | 36 | 34 | 69 | 23 | .6 | .5 | .5 | .5 |
| Total 2/ | 5,923 | 6,705 | 12,627 | 4,638 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Sheep and lambs: | | | | | | | | |
| Lambs & yearlings | 1,136 | 1,300 | 2,436 | 1,055 | 97.7 | 97.8 | 97.8 | 97.7 |
| Sheep | 27 | 29 | 56 | 25 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.3 |
| Total 2/ | 1,163 | 1,329 | 2,492 | 1,080 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

1/ Based on reports from packers. 2/ Totals based on rounded numbers.
3/ Included in cattle classification.

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION, BY CLASSES, OF CATTLE SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

| Region | Steers | | Heifers | | Cows | | Bulls and Stags | | Canners & Cutters all classes | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb. 1956 | Feb. 1955 | Feb. 1956 | Feb. 1955 | Feb. 1956 | Feb. 1955 | Feb. 1956 | Feb. 1955 | Feb. 1956 | Feb. 1955 |
| | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. |
| N. Atlantic States.. | 65.0 | 54.6 | 1.4 | 2.3 | 32.2 | 41.0 | 1.4 | 2.1 | 19.2 | 24.8 |
| S. Atlantic States.. | 56.9 | 51.4 | 3.2 | 4.0 | 35.4 | 38.8 | 4.5 | 5.8 | 22.4 | 25.4 |
| N.C. States -Eastern | 59.1 | 50.0 | 6.4 | 6.3 | 32.7 | 41.9 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 15.2 | 19.4 |
| N.C.States-N.Western | 52.5 | 48.5 | 18.9 | 19.2 | 27.1 | 31.0 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 11.0 | 10.4 |
| N.C.States-S.Western | 63.8 | 60.9 | 14.6 | 15.8 | 21.1 | 22.6 | .5 | .7 | 7.3 | 9.5 |
| S. Central States... | 44.1 | 31.4 | 8.0 | 14.0 | 44.7 | 51.2 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 29.2 | 34.0 |
| Mountain States..... | 25.7 | 22.3 | 52.5 | 48.6 | 20.2 | 27.0 | 1.6 | 2.1 | 7.2 | 12.9 |
| Pacific States..... | 57.1 | 48.7 | 19.6 | 23.6 | 21.7 | 25.7 | 1.6 | 2.0 | 8.0 | 9.1 |

Prospects for the 1956 spring pig crop in 9 Corn Belt States are reported to be 7 percent below 1955 in contrast with the 3 percent decrease indicated last December, according to a March 1 report released through the State-Federal Crop Reporting Service. December to February farrowings are down 1 percent from 1955. Producers now plan to decrease farrowings for the period March to May by 9 percent. Breeding intentions for summer litters June to August are down 8 percent. The number of all hogs on farms March 1, 1956 in the 6 States for which comparable 1955 data are available was 2 percent above 1955. On January 1, 1956 the increase in all hog inventories was 6 percent but heavy marketings since then and a decrease in winter farrowings left March 1 inventories only a little above a year earlier. Hogs 6 months old and older on farms March 1 were down 4 percent. Pigs 3-6 months were up 15 percent. The March 1, 1956 inventory of hogs and pigs over 3 months old was up only 4 percent. However, the increase in market hogs and pigs over 3 months, excluding sows and gilts for spring farrowing, was 8 percent. The 1955 fall pig crop was 10 percent above the fall crop of 1954.

SPRING SOW FARROWINGS - 9 STATES, WITH COMPARISONS

| State | Dec.-Jan.-Feb. 1/ | | | March-April-May 2/ | | | December-May (Incl.) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1955 | 1956 | | 1955 | 1956 | | 1955 | 1956 | |
| | No. (000) | No. (000) | % of 1955 | No. (000) | No. (000) | % of 1955 | No. (000) | No. (000) | % of 1955 |
| Iowa | 406 | 369 | 91 | 1,576 | 1,355 | 86 | 1,982 | 1,724 | 87 |
| Ohio | 155 | 162 | 105 | 231 | 239 | 103 | 386 | 401 | 104 |
| Indiana | 297 | 302 | 102 | 286 | 287 | 100 | 583 | 589 | 101 |
| Illinois | 258 | 260 | 101 | 693 | 681 | 98 | 951 | 941 | 99 |
| Wisconsin | 88 | 83 | 94 | 267 | 226 | 85 | 355 | 309 | 87 |
| Minnesota | 130 | 114 | 88 | 546 | 467 | 86 | 676 | 581 | 86 |
| Missouri | 159 | 190 | 119 | 320 | 346 | 108 | 479 | 536 | 112 |
| South Dakota | 34 | 27 | 79 | 324 | 256 | 79 | 358 | 283 | 79 |
| Kansas | 42 | 45 | 107 | 94 | 80 | 85 | 136 | 125 | 92 |
| Total 9 States | 1,569 | 1,552 | 99 | 4,337 | 3,937 | 91 | 5,906 | 5,489 | 93 |
| Total 6 States | 1,221 | 1,173 | 96 | 3,462 | 3,096 | 89 | 4,683 | 4,269 | 91 |

1/ Refers to December of previous year. 2/ Intentions reported as of March 1.

SOWS TO FARROW (June-August) and NUMBER HOGS ON FARMS
March 1, 1956, 9 States, with Comparisons

| State | Sows to Farrow June-July-Aug. 1/ | | | March 1, 1956 Numbers on Farms | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | All Hogs | | Hogs over 6 Mo. | | Hogs 3-6 Months | |
| | 1955 No. (000) | 1956 No. (000) | % of 1955 | No. (000) | % of 1955 | No. (000) | % of 1955 | No. (000) | % of 1955 |
| Iowa | 581 | 525 | 90 | 9,944 | 100 | 4,249 | 94 | 3,120 | 117 |
| Ohio | 176 | 170 | 97 | 2,915 | -- | 695 | -- | 1,140 | -- |
| Indiana | 337 | 324 | 96 | 4,651 | 103 | 1,321 | 100 | 1,210 | 103 |
| Illinois | 346 | 335 | 97 | 6,348 | 109 | 2,258 | 107 | 2,250 | 113 |
| Wisconsin | 111 | 99 | 89 | 1,807 | 100 | 577 | 85 | 620 | 125 |
| Minnesota | 202 | 191 | 95 | 3,085 | 97 | 1,415 | 90 | 870 | 119 |
| Missouri | 228 | 189 | 83 | 3,900 | -- | 1,080 | -- | 1,550 | -- |
| South Dakota | 49 | 34 | 69 | 935 | -- | 540 | -- | 220 | -- |
| Kansas | 42 | 34 | 81 | 839 | 107 | 194 | 82 | 345 | 131 |
| Total 9 States | 2,072 | 1,901 | 92 | 34,424 | -- | 12,329 | -- | 11,325 | -- |
| Total 6 States | 1,619 | 1,508 | 93 | 26,674 | 102 | 10,014 | 96 | 8,415 | 115 |

1/ Intentions reported as of March 1.

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WESTERN LIVESTOCK REVIEW - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 253

Demand for slaughter steers and heifers at terminal markets was less urgent than in recent weeks, and although advances of 50¢ to $1.00 were registered in the Northwest, late prices at other centers were steady to 50¢ higher, with heifers up most. Sales of those classes at California feedlots were steady to 50¢ lower. Cows closed mostly steady at terminal markets; vealers and slaughter calves steady to 50¢ higher. Stockers and feeders sold readily at steady to 50¢ higher prices. Butcher hogs advanced 50¢ to $1.25. Old crop wooled slaughter lambs closed strong to 50¢ higher at Denver, mostly steady at other terminals.

Sales of Good and Choice slaughter steers at terminal markets ranged from $16.50-20.50; most heifers of the same grades $15.50-19.00, scattered lots average to high-Choice at Ogden $19.20-19.50. Utility and Commercial cows bulked from $11.00-14.50; Canners and Cutters $9.00-11.00. Good and Choice vealers brought $20.00-26.00, few Choice to $28.00 in the Northwest. Good and Choice stocker and feeder steers ranged from $15.00-19.50, bulk $16.50-19.00; same grades stocker and feeder heifers $15.00-16.75. Most Good and Choice stock calves brought $17.50-20.00, few heifer calves of the same grades $16.00-18.00.

Choice slaughter steers brought $19.00-21.00 at California feedlots, 8 loads high-Choice 944# carrying a few Prime in Southern California at $21.50 for immediate delivery. Most Good steers earned $18.00-18.50. Good and Choice slaughter heifers brought $16.00-18.50, load high-Choice $19.50. A few loads of Good to mostly Choice yearling stock steers sold in Northern California at $19.00, about 150 head Good to Choice 650# Montana yearling steers $16.00.

Mixed lots of U. S. No. 1 to 3 180-240# barrows and gilts sold late in the week at $15.50 in S. San Francisco and Stockton; $14.75-16.00 at Los Angeles; $15.25-16.50 at Portland; $15.50 at Spokane; $14.75-15.25 at Ogden; and $14.25-15.50 at Denver. A few Choice spring lambs brought $20.50-21.00 at Denver and S. San Francisco, load Choice 96# Idahos $20.25 at Ogden. Choice and Prime wooled slaughter lambs brought $19.75 at Denver late, few to $20.00; Good and Choice at other terminals $17.00-19.25. About 100,000 California spring lambs have been sold or contracted so far this season; several bands selling this week at $18.00-19.00, few contracts at $18.00 drawn for delivery up to June 1 for all lambs scaling 60# up at grower's option. A few loads of Good and Choice old crop slaughter lambs brought $16.00-17.00 in the Imperial Valley during the week, these carrying No. 1 pelts and selling FOB Valley at 4% shrink.